

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate ~~according to claim 15,~~ derived from a carbohydrate containing 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups in its repeating units, the 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups having at least partially been oxidized to dialdehyde groups, and a part of the aldehyde groups having been oxidized to carboxylic acid groups, the ratio between aldehyde groups and carboxyl groups being between 25/75 and 80/20, wherein said oxidized carbohydrate contains [containing] on average 0.1-1.5 carboxyl groups and 0.5-1.9 aldehyde groups per oxidized 1,2-dihydroxyethylene group.

17. (previously presented) An oxidized carbohydrate according to claim 16, containing on average 0.5-1.3 carboxyl groups and 0.7-1.5 aldehyde groups per oxidized 1,2-dihydroxyethylene group.

18.(currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate ~~according to claim 15,~~ derived from a carbohydrate containing 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups in its repeating units, the 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups having at least partially been oxidized to dialdehyde groups, and a part of the aldehyde groups having been oxidized to carboxylic acid groups, the ratio between aldehyde groups and carboxyl groups being between 25/75 and 80/20, and wherein said oxidized carbohydrate contains ~~containing~~ on average 0.1-1.2 carboxyl groups and 0.3-1.2 aldehyde groups per repeating unit.

19. (currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from starch, amylose, amylopectin and modifications thereof.

20. (currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from cellulose and modifications thereof.

21. (currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate according to claim [[15]] 16, wherein the carbohydrate is a 2,1-fructan.

22. (currently amended, withdrawn) A process for producing an oxidized carbohydrate containing aldehyde groups and carboxylic acid groups, the ratio between aldehyde groups and carboxyl groups being between 25/75 and 80/20, and wherein said oxidized carbohydrate contains on average 0.1-1.5 carboxyl groups and 0.5-1.9 aldehyde groups per oxidized 1,2-dihydroxyethylene group, the process comprising oxidizing a dialdehyde carbohydrate obtainable by oxidizing a carbohydrate containing 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups in its repeating units, the oxidation of the dialdehyde carbohydrate being performed with a catalytic amount of molecular halogen.

23. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 22, wherein the oxidation with molecular halogen is performed at a pH between 3 and 7.

24. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 22, wherein the molecular halogen is produced in situ by reaction of halide with a carboxylic peracid.

25. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 22, wherein the molecular halogen is molecular bromine.

26. (withdrawn) A process for producing an oxidized, amino-substituted carbohydrate, comprising reductively aminating residual aldehyde groups in the oxidized carbohydrate obtained by the process according to claim 22.

27. (currently amended, withdrawn) An amino-substituted oxidation product derived from a carbohydrate containing 1,2-dihydroxyethylene groups in its repeating units, these dihydroxyethylene groups having at least partially been oxidized to ~~dialdehyde~~ dialdehyde groups, the product containing on average 0.1-1.5 carboxyl groups and 0.1-1.9 substituted amine groups per oxidized 1,2-dihydroxyethylene group.

28. (currently amended, withdrawn) An amino-substituted oxidation product according to claim [[273]] 27, containing on average 0.1-1.2 carboxyl groups and 0.3-1.2 substituted amino groups per repeating unit.

29. (withdrawn) An amino-substituted oxidation product according to claim 27, wherein said substituted amino group has the formula $-NR^1R^2$, wherein R^1 represents hydrogen, a C_1C_{20} alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group optionally substituted with carboxy, hydroxy, C_1C_{12} alkoxy, amino, carbamoyl and/or aryl, including natural and synthetic amino acid residues, and R^2 represents hydrogen, amino, substituted amino, hydroxy, alkoxy, or a C_1-C_{12} alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group optionally substituted with carboxy, hydroxy, C_1-C_{12} alkoxy, amino and/or carbamoyl, or a substituted iminomethyl group, or R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, represent a three- to seven- membered heterocyclic system, optionally containing one or more further heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and optionally substituted with carboxy, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkoxy, amino, carbamoyl and/or aryl.